Title: Demand to revise the ceiling fixed for payment of bonus from Rs. 1600 per month to Rs. 3500 per month.

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH: Sir, the workmen of this country are entitled to get bonus according to the Bonus Act, 1965. As you know, as per the Supreme Court verdict, the bonus was declared as the deferred wage. So, the workers, who work for the development of this country, should get their due share which they earn as the deferred wage. In 1992, the upper limit of the income, as per the Act, was fixed as Rs.2500 per month and the bonus was calculated keeping Rs.1600 per month as the limit. For the last eight years, due to unprecedented price rise, the workers are not getting their due share because for all these years the bonus is being calculated keeping Rs.1600 per month as the limit.

I would appeal to the Finance Minister as also the Labour Minister to revise the ceiling fixed for payment of bonus as per the Bonus Act. The upper limit of income may be fixed at Rs.6000 per month and bonus should be calculated keeping Rs.3500 per month as the limit. A large number of jute workers, industrial workers as also engineers and trade unions are demanding for the hike in bonus but the Central Government has not yet made up its mind to amend the Bonus Act so as to raise the ceiling fixed for the purpose of calculating bonus. I would request the Minister to consider it sympathetically. The limit for calculating bonus should be raised from Rs.1600 per month to Rs.3500 per month. I hope the Government will respond positively.